

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2897
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
AGRICULTURAL AREA
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the area of agricultural land is increasing every year due to various schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the area of agricultural land increased during the Ninth Plan; and
- (d) the area of agricultural land likely to be increased during the Tenth Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): Government of India are implementing various schemes for development of degraded land/rainfed areas which contribute to increasing the Net Sown Area in the country.

As per available estimate, Net Sown Area has increased from 140.27 million hectare in the year 1980-81 to 142.60 million hectare in the year 1998-99. The State-wise details are annexed.

(c): The Net Sown Area in the VIII Five Year Plan (1993-94) was 142.34 million hectare and the same has increased to 142.60 million hectare during IX Five Year Plan (1998-99).

(d): The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for X Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission has suggested a perspective plan for development of 15.00 million hectare through Watershed Development Programmes during X Plan.